

# **Growth Group Questions**

*Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 14, 2023*

## **Introduction**

After five weeks of seeing how God blesses us in the resurrection under our “He Lives” theme, this week we think for the first time about our response to it. That seems about the right ratio of what God does for us versus what we do for him. Why is it so easy for us to fall into a “self-looking” faith instead of a “Christ-centered” one? Why is it so important that we keep our focus on him?

## **Into the Word** – Acts 17:22-31

1. Paul’s sermon in Athens is a great example of how to do outreach. What can we learn from Paul in the following things:
  - Paul used the situation he was in to begin the conversation.
  - Paul recognized their incomplete belief in “a god” and helped explain the truth more fully.
  - Paul pointed to the resurrection as proof of his claim.
2. In what way had God “overlooked” the ignorance of idolatry in the past? (Think in terms of timing of judgment rather than failure to judge)

## **Into the Word** – 1 Peter 3:13-22

3. Paul tells us that in general believers will not be harassed by the world if we are doing the good that God wants us to do. If (when) we do suffer for it, what does he mean when he says our response will be to “in our hearts revere Christ as Lord.”?

4. Explain the importance of giving our Christian answer “with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience.” Can you think of times when Christians haven’t done this? What was the result? (For an extreme example, google Westboro Baptist Church)
5. This is one of only two places in Scripture addressing Jesus’ descent into hell. How does the phrase “After being made alive” in verse 19 help us understand when and why this happened?
6. Paul makes a reference to baptism in verses 20-22. How does baptism save us? (What does it connect us to?)

## **Into the Word** – John 14:15-21

7. Jesus promises in these verses to send his people the Holy Spirit. How can Jesus say the Spirit “lives with you and will be in you?”
8. How do believers show their love for God?

## **Closing Prayer**

Risen Savior, because you live – we live. Give us opportunities in this coming week to give the reason for the hope we have, and move us to respond with love and gentleness and respect. Fill us once again with trust in your promises through Baptism and the Supper, and renew our hope in the resurrection of Jesus and in our own resurrection to come. Let us serve you faithfully in all things. Amen.